312 cisterns spread throughout the Western Desert. Many of them are still used by the Bedouins for watering their livestock. The southernmost part of the catchment area provides grazing for sheep. Northward near the coast, where the soil deposit permits, barley is cultivated.

311 The Bedouins divide al-Qasr into "the good life"
• 823 (ma'isha simha) on the coast, and "the bad life" (ma'isha
[103] wihsha) in the desert. Ma'isha simha consists of two zones: the shatt or sahil (i.e. "the coast," "as far as one can still see the sea"), and the area of shaïr wi mar'a ("the barley and pasture area"). Ma'isha wihsha is the zone beyond the plateau where nothing grows, the daf'a or sibta ("uncultivable
361 land which is sandy and stoney"). All of the Bedouins of al-Qasr are settled permanently either on the coast or just south in the barley and pasture area. Nomadic and semi-nomadic activity disappeared generations ago in this part of the desert.

823 When the Bedouins speak of al-Qasr, they are referring
103 to an area which is traditionally defined. When the Egyptians
131 speak of al-Qasr, they are referring to a "village" only recently incorporated. The difference is a substantial one and not merely a difference in dialect. The Bedouins use the term mintaqit al-Qasr ("the area, or territory, of al-Qasr"): the Egyptians say qaryit al-Qasr ("the village of al-Qasr").

000 As the Bedouins view it, the Western Desert is the watan